



TENNESSEE AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE



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AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT SURVEY TO BE CONDUCTED

(Nashville, Tennessee 9/20/02) How are changes in farm programs affecting agricultural productivity? What changes will consumers face? What land conservation practices are agricultural producers using? To answer these questions and gather reliable, objective information about U.S. agriculture, the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service (TASS) will conduct the Agricultural Resource Management Survey on production practices for soybeans.

This survey will gather information on soybean production practices, chemical applications, and pest management practices during the fall of 2002. In addition, cost of production data will be obtained. Fewer than 4,000 of the Nation's 355,000 soybean farmers will be asked to participate in the survey, so every response is critical. Some 125 producers in Tennessee will be included.

Producers selected to participate in the Agricultural Resource Management Survey will be making an important contribution to the overall welfare of the U.S. agricultural community. This survey gives participants an opportunity to set the record straight about issues that affect them, such as use of fertilizers and pesticides on soybeans. Results from this survey will be used to develop agricultural production practices that improve productivity for farm operators and ensure a safer, cleaner working environment for producers, their families, and communities. All survey information will be merged and used by commodity analysts, producer organizations, and others to benefit Tennessee farmers and ranchers.

Tennessee farm operators selected to participate in this year's survey are being notified by letter, and interviewers will visit them personally to collect their reports at their convenience. USDA will use the results to publish information on agricultural chemical usage and analyze commodity production costs and returns in a series of reports in 2003.

The Agricultural Resource Management Survey is one way that USDA and producers work together to provide the meaningful, accurate, and objective statistical information and services that help keep U.S. agriculture and rural communities among the most robust in the world.

"We safeguard the confidentiality of all survey responses," Debra Kenerson, State Statistician, said. "Data about individual operations are used only in conjunction with information from other producers."

All agricultural statistics published by NASS are available at www.usda.gov/nass/. For more information, call 1-800-626-0987.

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